

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claims 31-40 as follows.

Claims 1-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a unit for outputting a color material for primary color reproduction in a way that does not mix the color material and another color material in a first mode of using only dark color materials; and

a unit for outputting a color material for primary color reproduction in a way that mixes the color material and another color material in a second mode of using both dark color materials and light color materials.

26. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first mode is a fast printing mode and the second mode is a mode in which image quality is higher than that in the first mode.

27. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first mode is a mode for lowering granularity and the second mode is a mode for color matching.

28. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the dark color materials are K, C, M and Y inks.

29. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the light color materials are light cyan and light magenta inks.

30. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus for forming an image by using dark color materials and light color materials, the apparatus comprising:

a unit for forming an image by using the dark color material of a first color for primary color reproduction in a fast printing mode; and

a unit for forming an image by using a first light color material associated with the first dark color material and a second light color material different from the first light color material for primary color reproduction in a high image quality mode.

31. (New) An image processing method of converting image data composed of R, G, and B colors into one or more pixel data corresponding to color materials for a plurality of ejection units which eject the respective color materials and two of which eject color materials of the same color or similar shades, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting either a first mode using one ejection unit that has high-density of a color material for color materials of the same color or similar shades and a second mode using all of the ejection units;

operating, if the first mode is selected, to convert the image data in which two of the colors R, G, and B have their maximum values and which represent a primary color into the one pixel data corresponding to the primary color; and

operating, if the second mode is selected, to convert the image data which represents the primary color into the plurality of pixel data constituting hues equal to the primary color.

32. (New) An image processing method according to claim 31, wherein the plurality of pixel data in the second converting step includes a first color pixel data and a second color pixel data.

33. (New) An image processing apparatus that converts image data composed of R, G, and B colors into one or more pixel data corresponding to color materials for a plurality of ejection units which eject the respective color materials and two of which eject color materials of the same color or similar shades, the apparatus comprising:

a mode selecting unit for selecting either a first mode using one ejection unit that has high-density of a color material for color materials of the same color or similar shades and a second mode using all of the ejection units;

a first converting unit for operating, if the first mode is selected, to convert the image data in which two of the colors R, G, and B have their maximum values and which represent a primary color into the one pixel data corresponding to the primary color; and

a second converting unit for operating, if the second mode is selected, to convert the image data which represents the primary color into the plurality of pixel data constituting hues equal to the primary colors.

34. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the plurality of pixel data in the second converting unit includes a first color pixel data and a second color pixel data.

35. (New) An image processing method for an image output system including an image output apparatus having a plurality of ejection units which eject respective color materials and two of which eject color materials of the same color or similar shades and an image processing apparatus which converts image data composed of R, G, and B colors into one or more pixel data corresponding to the color materials for the plurality of ejection units, the method comprising the steps of:

causing the image processing apparatus to select either a first mode using one ejection unit that has high-density of a color material for color materials of the same color or similar shades and a second mode using all of the ejection units;

causing the image processing apparatus to operate, if said first mode is selected, to convert the image data in which two of the colors R, G, and B have their maximum values and which represent a primary color into the one pixel data corresponding to the primary color;

causing the image processing apparatus to operate, if the second mode is selected, to convert the image data which represents the primary color into the plurality of pixel data constituting hues equal to the primary color; and

causing the image processing apparatus to generate output data from a plurality of pixel data obtained in the first converting step or the second converting step, the output data being outputted by the image output apparatus.

36. (New) An image processing method for an image output system according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of pixel data in the second converting step includes a first color pixel data and a second color pixel data.

37. (New) An image output system including an image output apparatus having a plurality of ejection units which eject respective color materials and two of which eject color materials of the same color or similar shades and an image processing apparatus which converts image data composed of R, G, and B colors into one or more pixel data corresponding to the color materials for the plurality of ejection units, said image processing apparatus comprising:

a mode selecting unit for selecting either a first mode using only an ejection unit that has high-density of a color material for color materials of the same color or similar shades and a second mode using all of the ejection units;

a first converting unit for operating, if the first mode is selected, to convert the image data in which two of the R, G, and B colors have their maximum values and which represent a primary color into the one pixel data corresponding to the primary colors;

a second converting unit for operating, if the second mode is selected, to convert the image data which represents the primary color into the plurality of pixel data constituting hues equal to the primary colors; and

a data generating unit for generating output data from a plurality of pixel data obtained by said first converting unit or said second converting unit, the output data being outputted by said image output apparatus.

38. (New) An image output system according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of pixel data in said second converting unit includes a first color pixel data and a second color pixel data.

39. (New) A computer-readable recording medium encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute an image processing method of converting image data composed of R, G, and B colors into one or more pixel data corresponding to color materials for a plurality of ejection units which eject the respective color materials and two of which eject color materials of the same color or similar shades, the program comprising:

a first program code means for selecting either a first mode using only an ejection unit that has high-density of a color material for color materials of the same color or similar shades and a second mode using all of the ejection units;

a second program code means for operating, if the first mode is selected, to convert the image data in which two of the R, G, and B colors have their maximum values and which represent a primary color into the one pixel data corresponding to the primary color; and

a third program code means for operating, if the second mode is selected, to convert the image data which represents the primary color into the plurality of pixel data constituting hues equal to the primary color.

40. (New) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of pixel data in the third program code means includes a first color pixel data and a second color pixel data.